



TENNESSEE
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

P.O. Box 41505
Nashville, TN 37204-1505
1-800-626-0987
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/tn>

cooperating with
Tennessee
Department
of Agriculture



FARM FACTS

Debra K. Kenerson
State Statistician

RELEASED: DECEMBER 21, 2000 VOL. 00 NO. 24

Inside This Issue:

U.S. Cotton Production & Forecast	1
Economic Research Service Releases	2
Cotton Ginnings	3
Burley Tobacco	3
Dairy Prices	4
Broiler Production	4

U.S. Cotton Production Up 3 Percent

All cotton production is forecast at 17.4 million 480-pound bales, down less than 1 percent from last month, but up 3 percent from 1999. Yield is expected to average 619 pounds per harvested acre, down 3 pounds from last month. Survey and ginnings data indicate a 200,000 bale decrease in Texas production from the November forecast, which more than offset a 150,000 bale increase in California. On November 26, U.S. harvest was 85 percent complete, the same pace as both last year and the 5-year average.

Upland cotton harvested acreage, at 13.3 million acres, is up 1 percent from last year, but down 20,000 acres from the November estimate. American-Pima harvested acreage, at

172,000 acres, is down 40 percent from last year. The Southeastern States (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia) experienced dry weather throughout most of November. All States, except Virginia, maintained a harvest pace which exceeded their 5-year average; however, rains during the last week of November resulted in some brief delays to completing harvest. Alabama producers harvested 96 percent of their cotton acreage by November 26, compared to 94 percent on average. On this same date, Georgia reported 86 percent of their acreage harvested, 4 percentage points ahead of average. North Carolina was 6 points ahead of its 5-year average harvest pace and reported 88 percent completed as of November 26. South Carolina reported 92 percent complete on November 26, five points ahead of average. Virginia harvest progressed rapidly during November. Harvest activities had been slow due to cool weather throughout the growing season, which resulted in a slow maturing crop. As of November 26, Virginia reported 84 percent of its cotton acreage harvested, exactly the same as the 5-year average.

Harvest neared completion in the Delta States (Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee) at or near record pace. Louisiana growers completed harvest prior to November 1, while the other Delta States had well over 90 percent of their acreage harvested before November. Rains during November delayed the completion of harvest in these States; however, by November 21, all five Delta States had completed harvest. Data from objective yield surveys show boll weights in Arkansas were ranked sixth in the last 10 years. Louisiana's weight was ranked seventh since 1991, while Mississippi's weight was ranked ninth.

Crop Summary: Tennessee & U.S. Yield and Production, 1999 and Forecasted December 1, 2000

Crop	Yield Per Acre			Production ¹	
	1999	2000		1999	2000
		November 1	December 1		
TENNESSEE	Pounds			1,000 Bales ²	
Upland Cotton	505	606	606	595.0	720.0
UNITED STATES					
All Cotton	607	622	619	16,968.0	17,398.8
Upland	595	615	612	16,293.7	16,989.0
Amer-Pima	1,128	1,160	1,144	674.3	409.8
Cottonseed ³				6,353.5	6,512.2

¹ Production ginned and to be ginned. ² 480-Lb. net weight bales. ³ Production in 1,000 tons. Based on a 3-year average lint-seed ratio.

Cotton and Wool Outlook: The December Crop Production report from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) showed the 2000 U.S. cotton crop at 17.4 million bales, 100,000 bales below last month but 400,000 above 1999/2000. Upland production is forecast at 17 million bales, while the extra-long staple (ELS) crop is projected at a 5-year low of 410,000 bales. During the previous 20 years, the December forecast has been below final production 11 times and above 9 times. And, past differences between the December forecast and the final production estimate indicate that chances are two out of three for the 2000 U.S. cotton crop to range between 17.1 and 17.7 million bales. Meanwhile, the Cotton Ginnings report indicated that 13.7 million running bales had been ginned as of December 1, compared with about 13.4 million at this time last year.

Oil Crops Outlook: Central Illinois prices for high-protein soybean meal leaped from an October average of \$171.50 per short ton to about \$195 in early December. Much of the price rally is associated with changes in foreign soybean demand, particularly in Europe. U.S. exports of soybean meal to Europe were minimal in 1999/2000, and direct trade may increase only marginally this season. But as expanding European needs are mostly filled by South American processors, U.S. meal exporters will likely gain in Asian markets. U.S. soybean meal exports are expected higher to 7.3 million tons from the November forecast of 7.1 million. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) raised its forecast of the 2000/01 average price to \$170-\$195 per ton, compared with \$160-\$180 last month.

Rice Outlook: There were no changes made this month to the U.S. rice supply or use projections. The 2000/01 rice crop remains projected at 192.4 million hundredweight (cwt), down nearly 7 percent from a year earlier's record. A 2-percent reduction in planted area is behind the smaller crop. The average yield is projected at a record 6,236 pounds per acre, up more than 6 percent from a year earlier.

Feed Outlook: U.S. feed grain exports in 2000/01 are projected at 62 million metric tons, down 1.8 million from a month ago but up 5.6 million from 1999/2000. Ending stocks are expected to total 49.1 million tons, up from last month's 47.2 million, and up 300,000 from 1999/2000.

Wheat Outlook: Total U.S. exports are forecast at 1,125 million bushels, up 25 million from last month. Also, food use is increased by 5 million bushels, reducing the ending stocks forecast to 862 million bushels, down 30 million from a month earlier. The higher export forecast has the potential to strengthen prices later in the marketing year. However, relatively large supplies in the major wheat exporting countries are keeping U.S. wheat prices in check.

Tobacco Yearbook: Flue-cured tobacco markets closed on November 2 after 53 marketing days. Final gross volume totaled 574.7 million pounds compared with 711.7 million pounds in 1999. Prices were 179.0 cents per pound compared with 173.6 in 1999. Loan takings were 27.2 million pounds, dramatically lower than last season's 136.4 million pounds. A nearly ideal growing season in most areas led to one of the better quality crops in recent years, with only the Type 14 (Georgia-Florida) area undergoing drought conditions early. Both total volume and value were down from 1999 due to the 18-percent decrease in the effective quota. Producers' sales at auction for 2000 totaled 513.8 million pounds, representing 92 percent of the effective quota or 82 percent of the estimated crop of 623.9 million pounds.

Burley sales opened November 20, 2000. Through December 4, sales totaled 120.3 million pounds, 115 million pounds less than the same number of days last season. Prices are higher than last season, and offerings are of higher quality. During the same period, the average price was about 6.3 cents a pound greater than last season.

Source: *Economic Research Service, USDA*. For more information on ERS releases, please visit their web site at www.ers.usda.gov.

Cotton Ginnings: Running Bales Ginned(Excluding Linters) Prior to December 1, Crop Years 1997-2000

State	Running Bales Ginned			
	1997	1998	1999	2000
All Cotton				
AL	406,650	497,600	548,050	467,850
AZ	525,250	308,850	408,450	414,500
AR	1,541,200	1,170,850	1,376,850	1,416,700
CA	2,157,550	984,150	1,462,000	1,745,900
FL	85,000	59,750	96,000	76,550
GA	1,234,950	1,101,650	1,141,850	1,193,700
LA	998,050	650,350	916,700	914,400
MS	1,713,700	1,391,400	1,672,050	1,667,100
MO	531,150	336,600	449,300	499,100
NM	58,150	41,700	42,800	49,750
NC	657,450	944,250	536,900	969,950
OK	141,700	116,050	106,900	121,900
SC	303,200	307,050	213,200	296,200
Tennessee	622,350	527,050	572,150	685,500
TX	3,663,050	2,740,650	3,736,150	3,028,350
VA	95,200	131,600	99,750	109,550
US	14,734,600	11,309,550	13,379,100	13,657,000
Amer-Pima				
AZ	32,050	10,450	9,200	4,700
CA	276,650	168,000	257,600	201,350
NM	7,750	2,000	3,450	2,500
TX	33,800	21,100	25,600	18,000
US	350,250	201,550	295,850	226,550

[†] Not published to avoid disclosing individual gins, but included in the U.S. totals.

U.S. Burley Tobacco: Burley tobacco production for 2000 is forecast at 410 million pounds, down 2 percent from the November 1 forecast and 26 percent below 1999. Yield for 2000 is expected to average 2,041 pounds per acre, 32 pounds less than the November 1 forecast but 212 pounds above a year ago. Area for harvest in 2000 is forecast at 201,000 acres, unchanged from the November 1 forecast but down 34 percent from 1999. Burley auction markets opened on November 20. The USDA Agricultural Marketing Service reports that as of December 7, total burley tobacco sales for the season totaled 142.8 million pounds.

**Burley Tobacco: Area Harvested, Yield, and Production by State, and United States, 1998-2000
and Forecasted December 1, 2000**

State	Area Harvested		Yield		Production		
	1999	2000	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000
Type 31	Acres		Pounds		1,000 Pounds		
Indiana	6,500	3,800	1,800	2,100	17,000	11,700	7,980
Kentucky	210,000	125,000	1,810	2,100	416,025	380,100	262,500
Missouri ¹	2,300	1,400	2,015	2,180	5,751	4,635	3,052
North Carolina	7,800	7,800	1,600	1,650	11,745	12,480	12,870
Ohio	9,800	7,500	1,740	1,790	17,934	17,052	13,425
TENNESSEE	55,000	45,000	1,890	2,000	91,545	103,950	90,000
Virginia	10,600	9,000	2,180	2,000	20,176	23,108	18,000
West Virginia ¹	1,600	1,500	1,350	1,600	2,160	2,160	2,400
U.S.	303,600	201,000	1,829	2,041	582,336	555,185	410,227

¹ Estimates for current year carried forward from an earlier forecast.

U.S. Dairy Products Prices Highlights: Cheddar Cheese prices received for US 40 pound Blocks averaged \$1.07 per pound for the week ending December 9. The price per pound increased 2.0 cents from the previous week. The price for US 500 pound Barrels adjusted to 39 percent moisture averaged \$1.05 per pound, up 1.2 cents from the previous week.

Butter prices received for 25 kilogram and 68 pound boxes meeting USDA Grade AA standards averaged \$1.75 per pound for the week ending December 9. The U.S. price per pound decreased 0.6 cents from the previous week. Nonfat Dry Milk prices received for bag, tote and tanker sales meeting USDA Extra Grade or USPH Grade A standards averaged \$1.01 per pound for the week ending December 9. The U.S. price per pound decreased 0.2 cents from the previous week.

Dry Whey prices received for bag, tote and tanker sales meeting USDA Extra Grade standards averaged 21.6 cents per pound for the week ending December 9. The U.S. price per pound increased 1.8 cents from the previous week.

Broiler Eggs Set In 15 Selected States Down 3 Percent: Commercial hatcheries in the 15-State weekly program set 176 million eggs in incubators during the week ending December 9, 2000. This was down 3 percent from the eggs set the corresponding week a year earlier. Average hatchability for chicks hatched during the week was 82 percent. Average hatchability is calculated by dividing chicks hatched during the week by eggs set three weeks earlier.

Broiler Chicks Placed Up Slightly: Broiler growers in the 15-State weekly program placed 143 million chicks for meat production during the week ending December 9, 2000. Placements were up slightly from the comparable week in 1999. Cumulative placements from January 2, 2000, through December 9, 2000, were 7.04 billion, up 1 percent from the same period a year earlier.